GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3927
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2008
DECLINE IN ONION PRICES
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the declining trend of onion prices due to heavy production of onions in Maharashtra, Karnataka and Gujarat and arrivals of onion in the markets of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry has received any request from Government of Maharashtra to declare Minimum Support Price for Onion by the Union Government to protect the interest of onion growers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government to declare the MSP of onion price?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) & (b): The movement of weekly Index for Wholesale Prices (WPI) for onion has declined from 377.6 on 6th October 2007 to 162.7 on 29th March 2008. The production of onion in 2006-07 has declined compared to 2005-06. The production of onion in the country as well as in States of Maharashtra, Karnataka and Gujarat in recent years is given below:

Production of Onion during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07

(In `000 Tonnes)

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Maharashtra	1645.0	2469.0	1112.0
Karnataka	856.0	870.0	845.0
Gujarat	1223.0	2128.0	2128.0
All India	6434.6	8682.6	7158.4

(c) & (d): Government is implementing Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) in orer to protect the growers from making distress sale in the event of fall in prices. Procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities of perishable nature, are not covered under the Minimum Support Price (MSP).However,the same can be procured under MIS on the request of State/UT Government. The Government of Maharashtra has been requested to send proposal for implementing MIS for onion. However, so far no proposal has been received from the Government of Maharashtra for procurement of onion under MIS.